

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (currently amended) A joint assembly for joining a  
2       filiform element to a connection element, the assembly comprising  
3           a tube fitted on an end section of said filiform element  
4       and formed with an eye for said connection element, the filiform  
5       element consisting of a single composite and solid round strand ;  
6       and

7           means for bonding together the tube and the connection  
8       along continuous side contacting surfaces thereof.

1           2. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 1 wherein said tube and said eye are made in a single  
3       piece.

1           3. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 2 wherein said tube and said eye are separate pieces.

1           4. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 3 wherein said tube has a curved section defining said  
3       eye, and at least a first substantially straight section distal  
4       from an outer end of said end section of said filiform element.

5. (canceled)

1                 6. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said means for bonding said tube to said  
3 filiform element comprises an adhesive or a chemical bond between  
4 said tube and said filiform element.

1                 7. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 4 wherein said first straight section of said tube has a  
3 predetermined length such that the tensile stress force is at least  
4 partially transferred from said filiform element to said tube along  
5 said first straight section of said tube.

1                 8. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 4 wherein said tube has a second substantially straight  
3 section proximal to the outer end of said end section of said  
4 filiform element.

9. (canceled)

1                 10. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein a matrix of said filiform element of composite  
3 material is thermoplastic.

11. (canceled)

1               12. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said tube is steel.

13 - 14. (canceled)

1               15. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element has a protective coating  
3 against ultraviolet rays, against attacks of chemical nature, or  
4 against damage of mechanical origin.

1               16. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating  
3 has a predetermined coloration for identifying the diameter of said  
4 filiform element or for visually indicating said filiform element.

1               17. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating  
3 has length markers for facilitating measurement of said filiform  
4 element during manufacture of the joint assembly.

1               18. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1, further comprising  
3               means for locking the eye closed.

1               19. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 18 wherein said locking means are formed by a ring applied  
3 around the neck of said eye.

1               20. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said tube has flared end edges.

1               21. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1, further comprising  
3                 removable connection means between said tube and said  
4 eye.

1               22. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 21 wherein said connection means comprise a threaded stem  
3 that extends from said eye and screws into a first end of said  
4 tube.

1               23. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 21, further comprising  
3                 a retaining element adapted to prevent the filiform  
4 element from pulling out of a second end of said tube.

1               24. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 23 wherein the retaining element consists of a pin  
3 inserted axially the outer end of said filiform element positioned

4       in said tube, and having a maximum cross section greater than an  
5       internal clearance of said tube.

1               25. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 23 wherein said pin is conical or frustoconical.

1               26. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 23 wherein said filiform element is of composite  
3       thermoplastic material heatable to a softening temperature adapted  
4       to permit the penetration of the retaining element.

1               27. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2       to claim 1, further comprising  
3                       means for screw connection between the outer side surface  
4       of said end section of said filiform element and the inner side  
5       surface of said tube.

28 - 29. (canceled)

1               30. (currently amended) A procedure for joining a  
2       filiform element to a connection element comprising the steps of  
3                       fitting a tube on an end section of said filiform  
4       element,

5               shaping said tube such that it defines an eye adapted to  
6   be hooked by said connection element, the filiform element being a  
7   composite and solid round strand,

8               simultaneously heating the strand with the tube to a  
9   predetermined temperature at which both become malleable in order  
10   to be shaped to define the eye.

31. (canceled)

1               32. (previously presented) The procedure for achieving  
2   a system of junction of a filiform element to a connection element  
3   according to claim 30, further comprising the step of  
4               joining said filiform element to said tube in order to  
5   transfer the tensile stress load from one to the other.

1               33. (currently amended) A kit for achieving a system of  
2   junction of a filiform element to a connection element, the kit  
3   comprising

4               a filiform element, resistant to tensile stress, of  
5   thermoplastic composite and solid material,

6               a tube fittable on an end section of said filiform  
7   element, and

8               a device for bending the tube including means for heating  
9   adapted to simultaneously heat said filiform element and said tube  
10   to a predetermined temperature in which said filiform element and

11        said tube become malleable, in order to be shaped such to  
12        substantially define a hooking eye to said connection element.

1            34. (previously presented) A method for reducing the  
2        aerodynamic resistance of a filiform element subject to a fluid  
3        flux of variable direction, comprising the step of  
4                attaching along at least one section of said filiform  
5        element at least one element with highly aerodynamic wing profile,  
6        supported and freely rotating around said filiform element such  
7        that it orients itself in the flux direction which impacts it.

1            35. (previously presented) A device for reducing the  
2        aerodynamic resistance of a filiform element subject to a fluid  
3        flux of variable direction, the device comprising  
4                at least one highly aerodynamic wing element attached  
5        along at least one section of said filiform element and supported  
6        and freely rotating around said filiform element such that it  
7        orients itself in the flux direction which impacts it.

1            36. (previously presented) The device according to  
2        claim 35 wherein the device is shaped like a wing-shaped foil  
3        having elastically deformable opposing edges for snap-lock  
4        introduction of said filiform element inside said element with  
5        aerodynamic profile.

1               37. (previously presented) The device according to  
2 claim 35 wherein it is a plastic extrusion.

1               38. (previously presented) The device according to  
2 claim 36 wherein said foil has at least a first extension  
3 projecting from the inner surface in order to join said foil to a  
4 precise point on the longitudinal length of said filiform element.

1               39. (currently amended) The device according to [[any]]  
2 claim 36 wherein said foil has a plurality of extensions projecting  
3 from its inner surface in order to join said foil to a precise  
4 point on the longitudinal length of said filiform element having  
5 substantially smaller diameter than that of the maximum chord of  
6 the curved part of said foil.

40. (canceled)